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[DE/DE]; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards GmbH, Weisshausstr. 2, 52066 Aachen (DE).

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(74) Agent: **VOLMER, Georg**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards GmbH, Weisshausstr. 2, 52066 Aachen (DE).

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(71) Applicant (for DE only): **PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS GMBH** [DE/DE]; Stein-damm 94, 20099 Hamburg (DE).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except DE, US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

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(72) Inventor; and

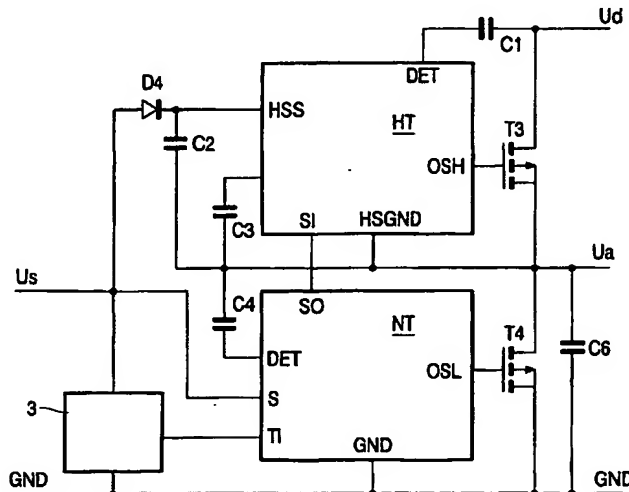
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(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **DEPPE, Carsten**

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DRIVER CIRCUIT FOR CONTROLLING A RESONANT CONVERTER



(57) Abstract: In order to improve the efficiency of a driver circuit for controlling upper and lower switching means (T3, T4) for converting a direct voltage U_d into a clocked output voltage U_a for a resonant converter with a high-voltage section (HT) for controlling the upper switching means (T3) and a low-voltage section (NT) for controlling the lower switching means (T4), which switch the switching means (T3, T4) on alternately to one another, the switch-on phases of the switching means (T3, T4) being separated from one another by dead-time phases, there is provided a first circuit section which controls the duty cycle D_{tein3} of the upper switching means (T3) as a function of the duty cycle D_{tein4} of the lower switching means (T4), and receives control signals from the low-voltage section (NT) exclusively during the duty cycle D_{tein4} of the lower switching means (T4).



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
31 December 2003

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No.

PCT/IB 03/00029

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H02M7/538

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H02M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 543 740 A (PHILIPS ELECTRONICS) 6 August 1996 (1996-08-06) the whole document	1-12
A	US 5 754 065 A (STEPHEN L. WONG) 19 May 1998 (1998-05-19) figures 1,3 column 5, line 16 - line 29	1
A	EP 0 562 397 A (POWER INTEGRATIONS) 29 September 1993 (1993-09-29) page 2, line 23 - line 25 figure 1	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 October 2003

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05/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lund, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In al application No.
PCT/IB 03/00029

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

The independent claims 1 and 12 are not clearly formulated in the characterizing part. A "duty cycle" refers to the relationship between the ON-period and the OFF-period of a switch. A duty-cycle can be said to be for instance 40% (the switch is 40% ON and 60% OFF during one cycle), but a statement that "xxxa takes place during the duty cycle" of a switch has got no meaning other than that this event takes place at any time as the duty cycle is present at any moment. Hence the independent claims cannot be search according to the way they are phrased.

In the interest of the applicant a general view has been applied to the application and the claims in particular and characteristics for search have been identified though these characteristics may not be what the applicant intended. The characteristics that appear novel and subject for more of the dependent claims are the further signal capacitors (C3,C4) that are referenced to the same potential (output) as the bootstrap capacitor (C2). These signal capacitors appear to be novel characteristics that can be searched in general without particular emphasis on the phrasing of any of the claims.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No.

PCT/IB 03/00029

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